

STATE HUMANE POUND ACT

Vote "No" on No. 2

The attention of our citizens is called to Proposition No. 2—the so-called Humane Pound Act—appearing on the November ballot. The *Record* believes this to be one of the most vicious proposals that has appeared on the ballot since 1922, when a similar proposition was defeated by almost 300,000 majority. It is similar in intent to bills which have been defeated time and again without number in the State Legislature.

The casual reader of this Humane Pound Act might be misled into believing that its sole purpose is the protection of stray dogs and cats. What it really would do would be to hamper and cripple all scientific investigation where animal experimentation is carried on in the efforts of physicians to find means for the relief and cure of human ills and for the prolongation of human life.

The great advance in medicine and surgery in the past seventy-five years has been built almost entirely upon animal experimentation. Without such experimentation we would not have had aseptic surgery nor many of the great surgical operations which today save and prolong human lives. We would not have had diphtheria antitoxin nor the preventive vaccination against diphtheria. We would not have had any of the serums or vaccines now so successful in the cure or prevention of smallpox, tetanus (lock-jaw), typhoid fever, hydrophobia, cerebrospinal meningitis, pneumonia, and other diseases. There would have been no insulin for diabetes, no cortin for Addison's disease. We would have known nothing about the value of liver and liver extracts in the treatment of pernicious anemia.

It was only by means of feeding experiments on animals that our knowledge of vitamins was gained. By means of experiments on animals new drugs are tested and proper dosages learned before they are used on human patients.

Most of the advances made in the past few decades in the treatment of tuberculosis, syphilis, and cancer, to name only a few of the many diseases, have come from scientifically controlled animal experimentations. Today the great battle is to find the cause of cancer, and to get better and earlier diagnosis of this great enemy of mankind as well as to find, if possible, a cure. The United States Government has allocated millions of dollars toward research on cancer, most of which will go to finance animal experimentation.

Do not let anyone tell you that these experiments are cruel. A very high percentage of them are feeding experiments or experiments where no greater operation is performed than the prick of a hypodermic needle. When surgical operations are necessary they are performed under anesthesia with the same care and skill as is used in operations on human beings.

Proposition No. 2 puts it squarely up to the voter to decide between stray animals and human beings; between a dog, a cat, a mouse, a rat, a guinea pig, or a human being—perhaps a baby. Protect yourself and your children. Vote "No" on No. 2.—Editorial, *Colfax Record*, October 17.

STATE HUMANE POUND LAW*

What I have to say about animal experimentation in biology and medicine would not be authoritative, since I am not, myself, a biologist or a medically trained person. But my friend and former colleague of the University of Chicago, Prof. A. J. Carlson, as humane and rigorously honest and truthful a man as any one living, has recently written on this subject in the issue of *Science* of September 16, an article which all who wish to be intelligent voters on the proposed State Humane Pound Law should read in full. Let me condense some of its main ideas for the readers of this paper.

* By Dr. Robert A. Millikan.

It is because animals are anatomically and physiologically so much like man that animal experimentation has played so great a rôle in the medical discoveries that have already done so much to abolish plagues and infectious diseases generally in both man and animals; for "free and intelligent experiments on animals during the past three hundred years have been the greatest factor in our present achievements in knowledge of the nature of life and the control of disease." Here are merely two examples out of hundreds:

EXAMPLES CITED

"One of the great discoveries in medicine of all times is the approximate causes of pernicious anemia and the control of pernicious anemia by the liver and gastric principles. I glory in the fact that this discovery was made in this country, our country, these United States. The first steps were taken by experiments on dogs in the city of San Francisco in the great University of the State of California. Then the ball passed to the Atlantic Coast, to fair Harvard. And now the whole world cheers California and Harvard, and Doctor Whipple, and Doctor Minto, and Doctor Murphy. Citizens of California, remember that cheer when you are confronted with proposals to shackle your great universities, proposals which say, in effect, that good doctors of this state cannot be trusted to treat unclaimed stray dogs humanely!

"There were more than thirty years of intensive research on animals—mainly on the dog—before we had the substance insulin in sufficient purity to warrant its trial on people sick with diabetes; and even now every new lot of insulin must be tested on animals before it is safe for the sick man, the sick woman, or the sick child. Every informed layman knows the value of insulin in diabetes in man. You need not take my word for it. Read history and form your own judgment. These facts are obvious. I sincerely believe that if every man and woman in this country knew the inspiring story of the discovery of insulin, all voices would be raised in approbation of such fruitful animal experimentation." . . .

BENEFITS TO ANIMALS

Again, "I could speak to you for hours on what experiments on animals in veterinary medicine have done for the health and happiness of the dog and the cat, the horse, the heifer, the hog, and the lowly hen. We can rid the dog of harmful parasites, including the hookworm, and we are well on the road to prevent dog distemper. As to rabies, we are still in the trenches, but making progress. But let the record speak for itself." . . .

Further, "As to the charge that it is cruel, I have a word to say as a man who has been engaged in animal experimentation for over a third of a century and should know something about it. Cruelty is the wanton or useless infliction of suffering on man or animals. I know the biological and medical research laboratories in this country and abroad, and can state as a fact that in animal experiments involving pain the same anesthetics are used as in surgical operations on man. . . . When animals under anesthesia are used in medical teaching, they are not allowed to come out of the anesthesia. Death by anesthesia is probably one of the least uncomfortable deaths.

There is inflicted on animals more pain in one hunting, trapping and fishing season than in all the centuries of animal experimentation. We use animals, by common consent, for food, for clothing, for labor, for pleasure. Now can it be wrong to use animals humanely to increase our understanding of life, our control of disease, both of which contribute to human and animal happiness? . . .

MAINLY FALSE CHARGES

"As to the tactics of the adversaries to modern biology and medicine. The group that endeavors to cripple the progress of modern biology and medicine by propaganda and restrictive legislation is made up of a small core of

peculiar people; the blindest of the blind; people who do not want to see. This small group, through a persistent propaganda of mainly false charges, mislead a much larger number of poorly informed but otherwise fine, sane, kind, and excellent citizens. The latter usually change their allegiance when they learn the truth about animal experimentation. . . .

"A vote for the so-called Humane Pound Law is a vote of censure of your universities and medical schools. It is a vote to cripple, hamper and impose an impossible financial burden on medical education and medical research in California. It is a vote of lack of confidence in the medical profession of this state. A vote for this measure says: The leaders in medical education and medical research in the State of California cannot be trusted to treat unclaimed stray dogs and cats humanely. . . .

ILLINOIS DEMONSTRATION

"This is what happened in my own city and state a few years ago, when opponents of modern medicine tried to shackle medical research and medical teaching. When the same question was up in Illinois, we invited our fellow citizens (including our adversaries) to come to our medical laboratories to see for themselves whether our work was futile and cruel. They came; legislators, aldermen, men of the mart and women of the home and club, men in the store and men in the street. They saw for themselves and then voted overwhelmingly to give unclaimed stray dogs to reputable laboratories for medical teaching and research, for humane service toward human welfare. This was done by the citizens of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Will the citizens of California do less? Will they put restraining shackles on the noblest endeavors of man?"

The Southern California Committee of the California Society for Medical Research, which is heading the opposition to the proposed State Humane Pound Act, is composed of Robert A. Millikan (chairman), Dr. Remsen du Bois Bird, the Most Rev. John J. Cantwell, Dr. Charles K. Edmunds, Dr. Robert Freeman, Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, Louis B. Mayer, Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid.—*Pasadena Star-News*, October 13.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAL SOCIETY CONTROVERSY

Jury Probe Ordered for Doctor Groups

Washington, October 4.—(AP)—Chief Justice Alfred A. Wheat of the Federal District Court here ordered today a special Federal Grand Jury investigation of anti-trust charges against the American Medical Association and the District of Columbia Medical Society.

Justice Wheat, granting a request of Government attorneys, called the special jury to meet on October 17.

The Justice Department, represented by United States Attorney David A. Pine, and Allen Hart, special assistant to Attorney-General Cummings, announced on July 31 it would charge the Medical Association and its local affiliate with illegally interfering with activities of Group Health Association, Inc. Group Health is a coöperative providing medical aid to low-income Government employees.

At a recent press conference Attorney-General Cummings emphasized his department did not charge the American Medical Association with monopolizing the practice of medicine, but that the Association may have conspired to restrain "trade" in violation of one section of the Sherman Anti-trust Act.

The Department charges the local medical society with threatening expulsion of any members who accept employment on the Group Health Association's staff and even of doctors who consult with physicians employed by the Association. It further charges the local society required

hospitals here to exclude Group Health staff doctors.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 5.

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United States Asks Jury to Indict Medical Association

Washington, October 17 (UP).—The Department of Justice will ask a special grand jury today to return criminal indictments against the American Medical Association and the District of Columbia Medical Society for alleged "coercive" action against a coöperative health movement.

The Government charges that medical societies violated the anti-trust statutes in opposing the Group Health Association, an organization of Government employees to furnish themselves and their families medical care.

The case is an unprecedented application of the anti-trust laws. Officials frankly admit that it is a test case which, if successful, may result in similar action in other cities.

Most of today will be devoted to selection of a jury. Actual presentation of the Government's case probably will begin tomorrow and continue two or three weeks.

The Government's case is a climax to a long fight between the Medical Association and Coöperative Health organizations.

Assistant Attorney-General Thurman Arnold has charged that doctors in the District of Columbia, through their organization, the District Medical Society, an affiliate of the American Medical Association, have hampered physicians associated with the Group Health Association.

They have been "coercive," he charged, by threatening to expel from the Society doctors employed by the coöperative and doctors who consult with its physicians.

A Justice Department investigation of the alleged practices was started several months ago. The Department said it believed such activities constituted violations of the anti-trust statutes because the medical organizations were "restraining trade."—*Los Angeles Herald-Express*, October 17.

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Government Still After the Doctors' Union

The monopoly crusade against the American Medical Association or its District of Columbia unit was so loudly proclaimed that it is an embarrassing issue for the Department of Justice to drop. The Attorney-General accordingly is moving forward against the Doctors' Trust.

This is fortunate, not because the harrying of the doctors is edifying, but because court decisions on the points involved can set precedents and settle controversial questions of far wider application than in the field of calomel and quinin.

The Government accuses the Society by its code of ethics, its control of members, and outlawry of nonconformists, of being a monopoly. But doctors are not in commerce. They sell personal service. Personal service is labor. If they are a monopoly it is because they operate under union by-laws and closed-shop rules.

It is to the public interest that the courts rule upon the issues put forward. Either the Department of Justice will be told to stop such hare-and-hounds exhibitions or there will be a clarifying of some highly controversial issues which particularly affect doctors only because a part of their job is the mending of broken heads in other arguments about union matters.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, September 26.

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Medical Inquiry Pressed by the United States

Grand Jury in Washington Calls Witnesses in Anti-Trust Investigation

Washington, October 18 (UP).—The Government called its first group of witnesses today before a special Grand Jury in an attempt to prove that the American Medical